

Filed for intro on 02/02/95
House Bill _____
By _____

Senate No. SB0990
By Wilder

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapters 1, 3 and 5, relative to reform of programs and services for poor persons and families.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 1, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section to be appropriately designated:

(a) On or before January 1, 1996, the commissioner shall request a waiver from the secretaries of the federal department of health and human services and the federal department of agriculture to conduct a pilot project program as provided in this section. If the waiver is approved and if sufficient funds are available, then the commissioner shall implement the waiver request on July 1, 1996 or within ninety (90) days of final approval of the waiver by the secretaries, whichever is later.

(b) The commissioner shall request a waiver to:

(1) Exclude from income under 7 United States Code, Section 2014, amounts of income up to two hundred percent (200%) of the federal income poverty level established by 42 United States Code, Section 9902(2), earned by an unemployed head of a household who accepts employment after establishing

eligibility for the food stamp program for a period of two (2) years so that acceptance of employment does not adversely affect the household's eligibility for food assistance or the amount of the household's allocation of food assistance;

(2) Preserve the household's eligibility for medical assistance under Chapter 5, Part 1, of this title and under any waiver the state of Tennessee may operate such program under, for a period of two (2) years when the new employer of the head of the household does not offer adequate health insurance;

(3) Provide for appropriate referrals of heads of households applying for food assistance to programs operated by the department of employment security, and the employment and training programs of the department of labor to assist individuals in gaining employment; and

(4) Limit eligibility for assistance under chapter 3, part 1, of a caretaker relative applicant who is a participant in the waiver project to a total of twenty-four (24) months during the period the waiver is in effect.

(c) The commissioner may apply for a waiver that applies on either a statewide basis or to targeted urban and rural counties.

(d) If the waiver request is approved, then the current provisions of Sections 71-5-304(6), 71-5-106, and any other provisions of parts 1 and 3 of chapter 5, and their corresponding rules shall not apply only to the extent necessary to implement the waiver as approved.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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